IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 15.

Please amend claims 1-14 and 16-24 as follows.

1.   (Currently Amended) A service gateway operable to ~~for~~ (i) connect~~ing~~ at least one local client to an external network and (ii) ~~, the service gateway being operable to~~ hold at least one service module for providing a corresponding service, wherein the service gateway ~~comprises~~ includes a control mechanism ~~that is operable in response~~ configured to respond to a request for a first service provided by a service module not present at the service gateway~~, to~~ by send~~ing~~ one or more ~~a~~ message_s_ to an external source ~~for resolving the absence of a service module at the gateway in one or more iterations~~ until a response from the external ~~service~~ source identifies ~~information including~~ a service module within ~~held by~~ the gateway that ~~enables resolution of the absent service module(s).~~ is capable of providing the first service.

2.   (Currently Amended) The service gateway of claim 1, further comprising a record that identifies ~~of~~ service modules that are held by the service gateway, the record including a ~~reference~~ pointer to each of the service modules, wherein the control mechanism ~~being~~ is operable to:

    ~~to~~ react to a received request that identifies~~ying~~ a first service module by:
        accessing the record to determine ~~identify~~ if the first service module is
            held by the service gateway ~~and:~~;
        using the associated pointer included in the record to cause the first
            service module to provide ~~the~~ a corresponding service if the first
            service module is held by the service gateway; and
        requesting support from an external source by sending a message to the
            external source that includes ~~ing the~~ an identification ~~ty~~ of the first
            service module if the first service module is not held by the service
            gateway; and

-       ~~to~~ react to a response from the external source <u>that</u> identif<u>ies</u>~~ying~~ a second service module by<u>:</u>

accessing the record to <u>determine</u> ~~identify~~ if the second service module is held by the service gateway ~~and:~~<u>;</u>

using the associated pointer<u> included in the record</u> to cause the second service module to provide the corresponding service if the second service module is held by the service gateway; and

requesting support from an external source by sending a message to the external source <u>that</u> includ<u>es</u> ~~ing the~~ <u>an</u> identi<u>fication</u> ~~ty~~ of the second service module if the second service module is not held by the service gateway.

3.   (Currently Amended) The service gateway of claim 2, wherein the control mechanism is operable to:

react to a response from the external source <u>that</u> identif<u>ies</u>~~ying~~ a further service module by accessing the record to identify if the further service module is held by the service gateway and:

using the associated pointer <u>included in the record</u> to cause the further service module to provide the corresponding service if the further service module is held by the service gateway; and

requesting support from an external source by sending a message to the external source <u>that</u> includ<u>es</u> ~~ing the~~ <u>an</u> identi<u>fication</u> ~~ty~~ of the further service module if the further service module is not held by the service gateway.

4.   (Currently Amended) The service gateway of ~~any preceding~~ claim <u>1</u>, wherein the control mechanism is operable to compare successive responses from an external source to identify response duplication indicative of a recursive error.

5.   (Currently Amended) The service gateway of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the control mechanism reacts to the identification of a service module and associated data in a response from an external source by~~to~~ supplying the associated data to the identified service module, if held by the service gateway, for processing by the service module.

6.   (Currently Amended) The service gateway of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein an external source is a service provider.

7.   (Currently Amended) The service gateway of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein an external source is a service gateway operator.

8.   (Currently Amended) A computer program comprising ~~computer~~ program code on a carrier medium, operable in a service gateway computer, the service gateway computer being operable to ~~for~~ connecting at least one local client to an external network, the program code being operable:

to support at least one service module at the service gateway for providing a
        corresponding service; and

to ~~in response~~ respond to a request for a first service provided by a service module not
        present at the service gateway, ~~to~~ by sending one or more ~~a~~ messages to an
        external source ~~for resolving the absence of a service module at the gateway in~~
        ~~one or more iterations~~ until a response from the external ~~service~~ source identifies
        ~~information including~~ a service module within ~~held by~~ the gateway that ~~enables~~
        ~~resolution of the absent service module(s).~~ is capable of providing the first service.

9.   (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 8, the program code being further operable to:

        maintain a record that identifies~~ying~~ each service module held by the service
            gateway, the record including ~~with~~ an associated ~~reference~~ pointer to each
            of the ~~that~~ service modules; ~~, and:~~
        ~~to~~ react to a received request that identifies~~ying~~ a first service module by:

accessing the record to determine ~~identify~~ if the first service module is held by the service gateway ~~and:~~;

using the associated pointer included in the record to cause the first service module to provide ~~the~~ a corresponding service if the first service module is held by the service gateway; and

requesting support from an external source by sending a message to the external source that includes ~~ing the~~ an identification ~~ty~~ of the first service module if the first service module is not held by the service gateway; and

~~to~~ react to a response from the external source that identifie~~sying~~s a second service module by:

accessing the record to determine ~~identify~~ if the second service module is held by the service gateway ~~and:~~;

using the associated pointer included in the record to cause the second service module to provide the corresponding service if the second service module is held by the service gateway; and

requesting support from an external source by sending a message to the external source that includes ~~ing the~~ an identification ~~ty~~ of the second service module if the second service module is not held by the service gateway.

10.   (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 9, wherein the program code is operable to:

react to a response from the external source that identifie~~sying~~s a further service module by

accessing the record to identify if the further service module is held by the service gateway and:

using the associated pointer included in the record to cause the further service module to provide the corresponding service if the further service module is held by the service gateway; and

requesting support from an external source by sending a message to the external

source that includes ~~ing the~~ an identification ~~ty~~ of the further service

module if the further service module is not held by the service gateway.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 8 ~~any of claims 8 to 10~~, wherein the control mechanism is operable to compare successive responses from an external source to identify response duplication indicative of a recursive error.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 8 ~~any of claims 8 to 10~~, wherein the computer code reacts to the identification of a service module and associated data in a response from an external source by ~~to~~ supplying the associated data to the identified service module, if held by the service gateway, for processing by the service module.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 8 ~~any of claims 8 to 10~~, wherein an external source is a service provider.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 8 ~~any of claims 8 to 10~~, wherein an external source is a service gateway operator.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A service gateway system comprising a processor ~~and~~, a memory, ~~the system being configured to provide a service gateway according to any of claims 1 to 7,~~ and a computer program comprising program code held in said memory and operable to:

  control said processor to connect at least one local client to an external network;

  support at least one service module at the service gateway for providing a

  corresponding service; and

  respond to a request for a first service provided by a service module not present at

  the service gateway by sending one or more messages to an external source

until a response from the external source identifies a service module within the gateway that is capable of providing the first service.

17. (Currently Amended) A service gateway system ~~of claim 16,~~ comprising a processor, a memory, and computer program code on a carrier medium, ~~according to any of claims 8 to 14~~ the system being configured to:

provide at least one service module for providing a corresponding service; and

provide a control mechanism configured to respond to a request for a first service provided by a service module not present at the service gateway by sending one or more messages to an external source until a response from the external source identifies a service module within the gateway that is capable of providing the first service.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of servicing at least one local client connected to an external network via a service gateway, the method comprising:

holding at least one service module at the gateway for providing a corresponding service;

responding ~~in response~~to a request for a first service provided by a service module not present at the service gateway~~,~~ by sending one or more ~~a~~messages to an external source ~~for resolving the absence of a service module at the gateway in one or more iterations~~ until a response from the external ~~source service~~identifies ~~information including~~ a service module within ~~held by~~ the gateway that ~~enables resolution of the absent service module(s)~~ is capable of providing the first service.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

maintaining a record in the service gateway that identifies each service module held by the service gateway, the record including ~~with~~an associated pointer to ~~that~~each of the service module~~s~~;

reacting to a request that identif~~ies~~ying a first service module by:

accessing the record to determine ~~identify~~ if the first service module is held by the service gateway~~and~~;

using the associated pointer <u>included in the record</u> to cause the first service

        module to provide ~~the~~ <u>a</u> corresponding service if the first service module

        is held by the service gateway; and

requesting support from an external source by sending a message to the external

        source <u>that</u> includ<u>es</u> ~~ing~~ ~~the~~ <u>an</u> identi<u>fication</u> ~~ty~~ of the first service module

        if the first service module is not held by the service gateway; and

reacting to a response from the external source <u>that</u> identifi<u>es</u>~~ying~~ a second service

module by<u>:</u>

        accessing the record to <u>determine</u> ~~identify~~ if the second service module is

                held by the service gateway ~~and:~~<u>;</u>

        using the associated pointer <u>included in the record</u> to cause the second

                service module to provide the corresponding service if the second

                service module is held by the service gateway; and

        requesting support from an external source by sending a message to the

                external source <u>that</u> includ<u>es</u> ~~ing~~ ~~the~~ <u>an</u> identi<u>fication</u> ~~ty~~ of the

                second service module if the second service module is not held by

                the service gateway.

20.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, <u>further</u> comprising:

reacting to a response from an external source <u>that</u> identifi<u>es</u>~~ying~~ a further service module

        by accessing the record to identify if the further service module is held by the

        service gateway and:

        using the associated pointer to cause the further service module to provide the

                corresponding service if the further service module is held by the service

                gateway; and

        requesting support from an external source by sending a message to the external

                source <u>that</u> includ<u>es</u> ~~ing~~ ~~the~~ <u>an</u> identi<u>fication</u> ~~ty~~ of the further service

                module if the further service module is not held by the service gateway.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18any of claims 18 to claim 20, further comprising comparing successive responses from an external source to identify response duplication indicative of a recursive error.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18any of claims 18 to claim 20, further comprising reacting to the identification of a service module and associated data in a response from an external source by to supplying the associated data to the identified service module, if held by the service gateway, for processing by the service module.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18any of claims 18 to claim 20, further comprising requesting support from an external service provider if a given service module is not held by the service gateway.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18any of claims 18 to claim 20, further comprising requesting support from an external service gateway operator if a given service module is not held by the service gateway.